

Snippets from Kids

“Mommy, that man has VERY cool hair!”

“Hey, what are you doing?”

“Yeah. I was like, I don’t think I’ll go out with him anymore.”

“Okay, we’ll be the interrogators and you be the terrorist.”

Walking down the street on sunny Saturdays and I’ve heard kids say these words. Sometimes funny, sometimes weird, sometimes stupid, and sometimes disturbing, these sentences have wafted to my ears.

“Mommy, that man has VERY cool hair!”

A White, approximately 8-year-old girl, said these words to me as we passed by each other. I laughed. How could I not? And her mom’s reaction was equally memorable. The kid’s blonde-haired mother laughed at her daughter’s pronouncement, turned in my direction, and gave me a thumb’s up. Cool. Funny. And now, on to stupid.

“Hey, what are you doing!?”

A pretty, White, maybe 8-year-old girl, riding her bike and wearing a pink helmet, said these words. She said them to a White, maybe 10-year-old, blonde-headed, skinny boy who was mowing his family’s front lawn. And all I could think was: “Here’s your sign.” Stand-up comedian Bill Engvall did an entire comedy album about the stupid and obvious things we say. Sarcastic comments

hurricaned in my mind. I thought: Damn. Really?!? That's what you say?!?
Nope. Can't you tell? He's playing video games. He's kayaking.
He's...anyway...come up with your own zingers.

"Yeah. I was like, I don't think I'll go out with him anymore."

Uttered by a White girl, maybe 8, who was strolling and talking to her mom.
Wow. Eight years old and she's dating? Whattami, old? Isn't she too young to
have a boyfriend? I dunno. It just struck me as weird.

"Okay, we'll be the interrogators and you be the terrorist."

The statement above alarmed me. It was said by a White teenage boy
standing next to his friend. The speaker directed his words to a third White
teenager. He looked a little unsure about the role he was assigned. I remember
kid games like, "*Cowboys & Indians*," or "*Cops & Robbers*." I guess "*Interrogators
& Terrorists*" could be a new iteration of those old standards. And yet, this new
updated version worries me. I thought of a story: It would begin as a fun and
imaginative game that would turn into a psychological/horror reality. I think it
could be quite a story.

You never know what you're going to hear just walking down the street.

I'll tell ya, it's never boring.

Next, Snippets from Adults.

And the things we've said.

Wow.